

**Report for:** Annual Council 20 May 2026

**Title:** **Political Composition and Appointments to Committees 2026/2027 – NOC 27 Green, 20 Labour and 8 Lib Dem**

**Authorised by:** Fiona Alderman, Director for Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

### **1. Describe the issue under consideration.**

- 1.1 This report concerns the appointment of councillors to serve on Committees during the municipal year 2026/27. The Council is required to ensure that appointments to which the statutory political balance rules apply are made in accordance with those rules. The relevant rules are summarised below (see paragraph 4.3). This report also sets out the membership of the Cabinet (which is excluded from the statutory rules about political balance), for the Council to note.
- 1.2 A schedule of Committees is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. This details the number of seats available on each Committee and the proportional split between the parties (reflecting the political balance of the authority, in accordance with the rules summarised at paragraph 4.3).

### **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Council is asked to:
1. Appoint to the Committees on the "slate" basis.
  2. To agree the allocation of seats on Committees and appointments in accordance with paragraphs 4.6 – 4.12
  3. To agree the membership of Committees and the appointment of Chairs as detailed at Appendix 1 giving effect to the wishes of the political groups.
  4. To note the proposed membership of the Cabinet as detailed at Appendix 2 appointed by the Leader in accordance with Article 7 paragraph 7.05 ii of the Council Constitution.

## 4. Background information

4.1 Following the 2026 Local Elections and subsequent to 2 resignations (1 elected member of the Green Party for Northumberland Park Ward and 1 elected member of the Labour party for Woodside Ward, the political balance of the Council of 57 councillors is as follows:

Greens	27 councillors (47.37%)
Labour	20 councillors (35.09%)
Liberal Democrats	8 Councillors (14.04%)
Vacancies	2 Councillors (3.50%)

4.2 The Council is required to ensure that appointments to which the statutory political balance rules apply are made in accordance with those rules. The relevant rules are summarised below (see paragraph 4.3). The Annual Meeting of the Council appoints Committees of the Council in accordance with Article 4.02(k) of the Constitution. The Council is required to comply with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 in terms of political balance when appointing 'ordinary' Committees – that is, Committees appointed under section 102(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.3 These rules provide that seats on 'ordinary' Committees must be allocated in line with the following principles, so far as reasonably practicable:

- (a) that not all the seats on a body are allocated to the same political Group.
- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to the political Group which has the majority of the Council's membership.
- (c) that, subject to principles (a) and (b) above, the proportion of seats allocated to each political Group out of the total number of seats across all the ordinary Committees of the Council shall be in the same proportion as their share of membership of the Council as a whole; and
- (d) that, subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on each individual body shall be allocated to each political Group in the same proportion as their share of membership of the Council as a whole.

4.4 The number of seats currently available on Ordinary Committees is 61.

Alexandra Park and Palace Board -	6 seats
Audit Committee	7 seats
General Purposes Committee	5 seats
Licensing Committee	11 seats

Pensions Committee and Board	6 seats
Strategic Planning Committee	11 seats
Standards Committee	5 seats
Appointments Panel	5 seats
Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel	5 seats
 Total	 61 seats

- 4.5 Given the result of the Local Election with no political group having a majority then principle (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to the political Group which has the majority of the Council's **membership will not apply** and the membership is appointed according to principles (a), (c) and (d). These are set out above paragraph 4.3.
- 4.6 It is proposed to allocate 30 seats to the Green Group ( $30/61 \times 100 = 49.18\%$ ) and this is as close as possible to the group's proportion of Council membership (+ 1.81 variance)
- 4.7 It is proposed to allocate 22 seats to the Labour Group ( $22/61 \times 100 = 36.07\%$ ) and this is as close as possible to the group's proportion of Council membership (+0.97 variance).
- 4.8 It is proposed to allocate 9 seats to the Liberal Democrat Group  $9/61 \times 100 = 14.75$  and this is as close as possible to the groups proportion of Council membership (variance of + 0.71)
- 4.9 The seat allocation more closely meets principle (a), (c) and (d). To note that principle (c) concerning proportionate allocation of seats across all the ordinary Committees of the council takes precedence over the principle (d) concerning proportionate allocation on any individual body.
- 4.10 According to the above allocation set out at paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8, all 3 groups get slightly higher allocation than their percentage share of the Council. If the Green Group were to be allocated 29 seats, this would be 47.54% and would be a 0.17 per cent higher allocation. Labour would get 23 seats, and this would be a 2.64% higher allocation ( $23/60 = 37.70$  and  $37.70 - 35.09 = 2.64$ ). If you provide the Liberal Democrat group with 8 seats rather than 9 the Liberal Democrat group would have a 0.93 lower percentage share. The Liberal Democrat group would also have a committee that they do not have a seat on, not meeting principle d.**
- 4.11 Therefore, the calculations set out at paragraphs 4.6 to 4.8 more closely meet each group's percentage of council members set out at paragraph 4.3.
- 4.12 Therefore, the allocation set out at below is proposed as this more closely meets Local Government and Housing Act 1989 principles (a), (c) and (d).

Ordinary Committee	Green	Lab	Lib Dem	Total number of seats
Alexandra Park and Palace Board	3	2	1	6
Audit Committee	3	3	1	7
General Purposes Committee	2	2	1	5
Licensing Committee	6	4	1	11
Pensions Committee and Board	3	2	1	6
Strategic Planning Committee	5	5	1	11
Standards Committee	2	2	1	5
Appointments Panel	3	1	1	5
Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel	3	1	1	5
	30	22	9	61

4.13 In calculating the allocation of seats on ordinary Committees, the following bodies were excluded because these bodies are excluded from the statutory rules on political balance:

- The Cabinet.
- The disciplinary pool.
- Licensing Sub- Committees (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Committee).
- The Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **The Cabinet**

4.14 The Cabinet is appointed by the Leader and may only comprise councillors from the majority party. It must have between 2 and 9 members in addition to the Leader.

## **Licensing Sub- Committees (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Committee).**

4.15 The Licensing Committee establishes the Licensing Sub- Committee of 3 members which will be appointed from a pool of members from the Licensing Committee. The Sub- Committee conducts the same type of business which includes the Gambling Act 2005 applications. The political balance rules do not apply to the Licensing Sub- Committees because they are appointed under the Licensing Act 2003 and so are not ordinary Committees appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. However, it is normal practice to establish the Licensing Sub- Committee in accordance with political balance so far as reasonably practicable.

## **The Health and Wellbeing Board**

4.16 The political balance rules are disapplied by the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/218). Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is prescribed at section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4.17 Principles (a), (b) and (d) of the rules apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by virtue of section 9FA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 2000. However, because the Committee is established under the Local Government Act 2000, it is not an ordinary Committee appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and so it is not included in the political balance calculations for the total number of seats on ordinary Committees (principle c). As such, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be balanced, but on an individual basis. Therefore, according to the proportionality rules and balancing this, and noting that there are 5 seats on this Committee, this is applied as follows:

- **Two seats allocated to the Green Group (  $5/100 \times 47.37 = 2.36$  and rounded to the nearest whole number is 2 Seats.**
- **Two seats allocated to the Labour group (  $5/100 \times 35.09 = 1.75$  and rounded to the nearest whole number =2.**
- **one seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.  $5/100 \times 14.04 = 0.7$  and rounded to the nearest whole number is 1.**

4.18 Changes to appointments can be made at any stage during the municipal Year with the changes being reported to the Council as appropriate.

## **5. Statutory Officers' comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

## **Finance**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

### **Director of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer**

- 5.2 The report sets out those Council bodies to which the political balance rules apply. The 1989 Act requires political balance in the distribution of seats on Committees to be undertaken "so far as is reasonably practicable" thus recognising that a mathematically precise split between political parties cannot always be achieved.
- 5.3 In section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, principle (b) states that a party with a majority on full Council shall have a majority of seats on each individual body. This principle would usually take precedence over principles (c) and (d) which require political Groups to be represented on the ordinary Committees taken as a whole and on the bodies individually in proportion to their representation on Full Council. However, as there is no majority this principle does not apply.
- 5.4 Principle (c) concerning proportionate allocation of seats across all the ordinary Committees of the council takes precedence over the principle (d) concerning proportionate allocation on any individual body.
- 5.5 There is no requirement to offer a seat to a single member as they do not constitute a "political Group" under the definition in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (S.I. 1553) Regulation 8.

## **6. Use of Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 - Appointments to Committees 2026/27**

### **Appendix 2 Cabinet Roles 2026/27**

## **7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- 7.1 Background documents:
- *Appointments to Cttees 2026/27*
  - *Haringey Council's Constitution*
- 7.2 The background papers are located at George Meehan House 294 High Road Wood Green, London N22 8HQ.
- 7.3 To inspect them or to discuss this report further, please contact Ayshe Simsek on 0208 489 2929.